

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4-7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating operation of a loyalty points program having at least one primary cardmember, said primary cardmember having an account, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving information related to a cardmember profile for the account at a server;

creating a cardmember profile for the account in a computer system in communication with the server, wherein the profile comprises at least one third-party authorization, wherein each third-party authorization corresponds to a third-party participant and each third-party authorization specifies an authorization access for the third-party participant, wherein the authorization access includes the option of a global assignment authorizing identical access to that of the primary cardmember;

allowing each third-party participant to request a transaction with the loyalty points program according to their corresponding authorization access;

receiving the transaction request at the server processing the transaction request using the computer system; and

fulfilling the transaction request;

receiving updated information at the server for reducing the authorization access of the third-party participant while still allowing at least some access for the third-party participant, and

updating the authorization access of the third-party participant in the profile based on the updated information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the authorization access comprises one of a global assignment, a functional assignment, and a transactional assignment.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of comparing the requested transaction made by one of the third party participants to the authorization access for the third party participant.

4 - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of verifying that each third-party participant to be given an authorization has sufficient connection to the account prior to granting authorization.

9. (Cancelled)